

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, January 5. 1706.

IN my General Introduction to this Discourse of Trade, I contented my self in searching a few of the various Causes or Originals, to which this mighty thing owes its Rise and Magnitude.

The Great Medium of Trade, is what I call Money; which, let the Species be what it will, supplies the Defects of every Country in their Produce, and brings all Trade, one way or other, to a Balance or Equality.

Something is always requir'd to Balance Trade in General, when Nations or Countries send more of the Growth of their Soil, or Manufacture of their People than they call for in value from them: this must be balanc'd by something equivalent in Value; and that is MONEY.

Nor is it always requisite that this Something should have an intrinick Value in it self; we find the Money of some Countries made of the most contemptible Trifles, which nevertheless serve to all the Ends of an Intrinick Species in Trade, between all such Countries where that Trifle obtains; but then the Advantage is vast and unreasonable between these Countries and others, where the Species of Money bears a different Respect.

In the Case of our Traffick with the Negroes; this is very obvious, when on the Coast of *Africa*, they willingly Barter, their Gold, as a *useless Trifle* to them, for the much more valuable Toy of a Cowry or

or Little Shell, fit here only for the use of our Children, and hardly valuable by them; as we buy these for a Price most ridiculously little, in comparison of what we receive for it, 'tis demonstrable that 'tis not the real Value that qualifies any thing to supply the place of a General Medium of Trade; but the Custom, Opinion and Usage of the Place; and the imaginary Worth, as sufficient to establish it to the due end of Trade, as the real Worth of any thing else would be; according to *Hudibras*,

What is the Value of a thing,

Just as much Money as 'twill bring.

But as the World is now in very few Parts left so ignorant, as in these where it has been worth no Bodies while to make them wiser; Gold and Silver have obtain'd the Ascendant over all other things; are in general allow'd to be the Great Medium of Trade, and are every where understood in the General Term, MONEY.

Nature indeed seems to prompt Mankind to this General Agreement, from something in those Metals peculiarly qualified to answer the End of a Specifick in Trade; as, General Scarcity, Purity of Parts, Solidity, Durableness, Beauty and Usefulness.

Gold and Silver are without doubt the finest, purest, and most incorruptible of all Metals, have their sublime Qualities and Vertues Superiour to all the rest; they are the Sovereigns of Metals; in Vessels and Ornaments, their Lustre and peculiar Glory, exceed all Metalline Substances, and are durable beyond any thing; they despise Corruption and Contamination, and preserve their Beauty under all the Accidents of Time and Nature, beyond all kinds of Metals.

From hence they become best qualified to be the General Medium of all Trade, and to fix a Value by their own upon all other Species; first being secure in their own intrinsic Worth; and all the Worth of the inferior Species in the World are measur'd by them, and bear some Terms of Value from them.

This is Money; and upon this *Axis*, turns the Great Machine of Trade; all things are bought and sold on the Foot of this Species; and whether paid for in Specie, or Balance'd by other Goods, 'tis rated in the Denomination of Money; and, in short, MONEY is the general denominating Article in the World.

MISCELLANEA.

AS I promised in the Introduction, to give the Reader now and then a little Diversion at the End of this Paper; I thought I could begin it with nothing so proper, as with some Mistakes of my own, both real and pretended.

I cannot but be extremely oblig'd to some Gentlemen, who, forbearing to give me their Replies or Objections, while I was treating of the Subject, and the Paper open to answer them; thunder them out now, when the Volume is done, and the Subject over.

Among which, those Gentlemen who quar-

rel at my exhorting the *Dissenters* to Peace, have hitherto receiv'd no Answer from me; nor had they receiv'd any yet, being loth to let the World know their folly; if they had not been so importunate, I do not say impertinent, as to descend to Railing and Coffee-house-Clamour at me for an Answer.

To such, therefore I reply; your saying the *Dissenters* are contented, was premised in the beginning, and spoken to, and is therefore no Objection at all; as a Body, I know they are so; and it would be scandalous in me, or any Body to suggest otherwise; If these Gentlemen will have it, that there

there are none among them ignorant enough to be otherwise; I Entreat them not to oblige me to come to a *Black List*, and tell Names.

It Wise Men will Be Angry that I Exhort Fools, they cease to be Wise Men, and deserve no Notice.

But you give the Enemy a handle, to fall upon the Dissenters, as Persons not Contented Says the Coffee-house Politician; give them no Handles your selves, Gentlemen, and I'll Answer for all I shall give them; let them take hold of them at their Peril; if I do not Defend it, then 'tis time to Censure.

But what if I should say, every thing has two Handles, and I ought not to expect those People, who cou'd not understand *the shortest way*, should understand this——But your Enemies understand it, Gentlemen, and can easily see, that to Argue the Reasons you have to be Contented, is to prove, *to their Grief*, that their Cause is overthrown, that the Victory of Truth is undisputed, and that you see it; and perfwading you to be pleas'd, is insulting them *the shortest way*——'Tis hard you should stand in need of Expositions at this rate, and harder you should Cavil only because you do not Understand; and hardest of all, that I have no way to Convince you, and Defend my self, but by telling all the World what Fools you are.

This Mistake of our Friends, puts me upon rectifying another very Comical Mistake of the Press in the last *Review*; the Workmen having I doubt, too much *Christ-mass-Ale* in their Heads.

Here the Poor Author of the *Review*, is brought in Abusing the Church, and telling the World, that our Bishops, God Bless their Lordships are all Wine Bibbers, and force a Trade in *England*, by sending Abroad for Foreign Liquors; see the last *Review*, Page 7. Col. 2. Line 22. *Our Prelates* Endling to seek Liquors, which we must send for from Abroad; Whereas the Copy is, our Pallats enclining us to seek &c.——Such Mistakes as these, are indeed Fatal, where a Man has to do with Censurers, that will always take

Poor Authors by the worst end of their Meaning,

Just as if I should tell Mr. *Rebearfal*, that as soon as ever he left off to be serious, he began to be Nonfensical; when he told a Wild-goose Story of a Countryman, *That found his Geese decay*, because every Night one of them was lost.

Now if he had said *Decrease*, we must all have understood him; but if some People by *Decay*, understood declining in Health, losing their Fat or Feathers, or some other Ganderish Distemper among them; Mr. *Rebearfal* must blame his Printer, or somebody else for the Impropriety, and take more Care when he makes his Countryman tell another long Story, without Head or Tail in it.

Another thing I think needful to Insert here, is in Answer to the Furious and Malicious Clamours of some People, who say they are Subscribers to a Book now Printing, Call'd *FURE DIVINO*, which because it is not Finish'd to their Time, for *I never oblig'd my self to a fixt time*, are pleas'd to suppose the Author has no justifiable Reasons for the delay.

Without any Reflections on their Uncharitable, Ungentleman-like, and Unjust Censure, of its being never to come out; That it was only a Sham to get Money in hand, that it is not Wrote, or that the Author is not Able to carry it on for want of Money, and the like; I shall give short Answers to Objectors, state the Fact, and make a fair and Unanswerable offer, to the Faithless Complainers, and then let the rest take its Fate.

That it is never to come Out, Time and Providence must Determine, for who can Answer for Events? and if the Author is Murther'd, before it be Printed, as he is often Threatn'd to be, perhaps that part may be True.

But that he does not design to Print it, and only form'd the Subscription as a Cheat, to get the Money in Hand; is a hard Suggestion, Absurd in it self False, and without Ground, and merely Malicious.

1. If so, Why did he not, as usual in such Cases, take half in hand, but Contented himself with a quarter, that it might appear

pear he did not Covet to receive their Money before hand.

2. The kind Receivers must be the Cheats, not the Author; since of the Subscriptions taken in *London*, tho' Advertisements were frequently Publish'd, not half of them have Paid the Money to the Author, nor can be prevail'd on, to let him know how many hands they have; by which he is kept from knowing his Number, tho' they must know, he having promis'd to Print no more than are Subscrib'd, he could not go on without it.

Subscription Money for Books, has always been suppos'd to have two Ends. 1. To tie the Subscribers to stand to their Proposal, take the Book, and pay the rest of the Money when finish'd. 2. To Assist the Author in Buying Paper, and Paying for the Printing.

They that Question the Author's Ability to buy Paper, have some Good Reason indeed, if they Consider how he is Treated, as to the Subscription Money, as above, which join'd to all the rest of the kind usage the World bestows on him, may make it easie to Conclude so.

But to put that out of Doubt, I make all the Discontented Subscribers this fair Offer. Let them or any of them come and Secure him, that they will take the Book when Finish'd, and pay the rest of the Money, they shall have double their Subscription Money Deposited in a third Persons Hand, as a Security to them, and to be Paid them, if the Book be not Printed and Deliver'd them——And a reasonable time settled for the doing it.

By this, their Unreasonable Clamour must be stop'd, or the Malice of it appear; and tho' the Author will have nothing to thank them for, as to the Assistance of their Money to help him to bring it into the World; yet as there are other Gentlemen of more Reason, who have been Benefactors to this Work, and on the Foundation of whose Assistance, I doubt not to finish, and bring it forth; so I shall be very Glad to have it seen, who I am not beholden to, as well as who I am; and I hope these last, will not think them-

selves Concern'd, in my Defending myself in this manner.

B E R R A T A.

The Reader is desir'd, besides the above-mentioned Error in our last, to correct the following Mistakes arising from the same occasion.

PAG. 7. col. 1. 1. 15. r. *By the Number of these, Cities rise out, &c.* ib. l. 33. 34. r. *extend upon Trade; by Trade they possess, &c.* Col. 2. l. 2. dele *is*; ib. l. 20. dele *there*; ib. l. 29. for *is r. are*; p. 8. l. 1, 2. r. *can spare; then, vice versa, they receive, &c.* ib. l. 19. r. *is call'd*, ib. l. 25. *Country r. Country.* ib. l. 42. r. *content with that to morrow. &c.*

A D V E R T I S E M E N T S.

A Treatise of the safe, internal Use of *Cantharides* in the Practice of Physick. Written a few Years since in *Latin*, by Dr. *John Greenfield*, Member of the College of Physicians in *London*, in his own Vindication, upon account of a Contest that then happen'd between him and some of the College, about his administering them inwardly to his Patients. Now Translated into *English* with his Approbation, by *John Marten*, Chyrurgeon. To which are added, several further and very remarkable Observations and Histories of the said Doctor; also of the Translator and others, concerning the safe, prevalent, effectual, and wonderful Vertues of *CANTHARIDES* internally administered in divers difficult and deplorable Distempers, &c. As also, an Anatomical and Chymical Account of that *IN-SECT*, with some very curious Observations relating thereto, made by the *Fire and Microscope*. *London*, Printed for *J. Wale* at the Angel in *St. Paul's Church-yard*, and *John Isted* at the Golden Ball against *St. Dunstan's Church* in *Fleet-street*. 1706.

Books Printed for, and Sold by *Jeffery Wale*, the Angel in *St. Paul's Church-yard*.

MISCELLANY Poems, as Satyrs, Epitales, Love Verses, Songs, Sonnets, &c. by *W. Wicherly*, Esq; *St. Eustachmont Works*, Vol. 3. Containing Variety of Elegant Essays, Letters, Poems, and other Miscellany pieces, on several Curious Subjects. A Continuation, of the History of that Famous Knight, *Don Quixot de la Mancha*, being a 3d. Vol. never before Printed in *English*, Translated by *Cap. John Stevens*, Copernicans of all sorts, Convinced, by the Honourable *Edward Howard* of *Berke*.